

Shaky RP-US ties ahead of inaugural

By Armando Doronila

ON THE EVE OF THE INAUGURATION of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States on Jan. 20, an uneasy silence filled across the Pacific between Manila and Washington.

"The decades the imagination has been granted with excitement," writes Guy Sordani ("Ours to the Command: On the Trail of the 2008 US Election"), but "this time it is being looked up with an important burden on America."

"Not only is this a transition between presidents, but only is it a transition between an old and new type of president—the dynamic when yielding to the full-fledged Hawaiian community organizer—but this is potentially a transition between one of the worst presidents the republic has ever suffered through, and one of the best it may be blessed to receive."

"Yes, it may all go bad—it may turn out that Obama is all words, no trousers, that his leadership skills are about as judgmentless as his abilities limited to golfing. He was, in other words, born to be half as bad as George W. Bush. "OUI should also be noted that Obama is by far the most different president this United States has ever had, not merely because of the color of his skin, his globalized upbringing, his medical education, but all of these together give him an outsider's perspective on the US, its sense of identity, its religion."

ARMANDO DORONILA

METRO / A21

Taxi driver in UST coed's case out of jail

BUSINESS / B1

Legacy pre-need firms close shop

LEARNING / F

What parents do to educate their kids with autism

NEWS / A2

Rural banking sector stable, says Bangko Sentral



Obama to inherit 'perfect storm of crises'



OBAMA ACCESSORIES Women show off their watch and bracelets during the "Audacity of Hope Ball," one of several pre-inauguration events held in Washington, DC.

WASHINGTON—AFTER THE INCANTATION and poetry, the parade and black tie inaugural ball, Barack Obama will inherit on Tuesday a world of crises, on which his presidency will rise or fall.

Despite the bleak economy, the price tag for the president-elect's inauguration gala is expected to break records, with some estimates reaching as high as \$150 million.

The 283-hectare national park in the heart of Washington is expected to hold a record crowd of about two million, with officials predicting "crash-test" crowds to witness the crowning-in of the first black leader of the United States and the nation's 44th President.

On Saturday, in Philadelphia, Obama stepped into a train car built in 1939—a time when his presidency would not have

Barack look-alike very much 'at home' in RP



THE BARACK OBAMA

been possible in America—and made a symbolic trip to the US capital, traveling alone a route that was followed by Starline Lincoln before his own inaugural division in 1961.

As he did throughout his campaign, Obama evoked imagery of Lincoln, in word and deed.

"While our problems may be new, what is required to overcome them is not," Obama said. "What is required is the same perseverance and wisdom that our forefathers displayed. What is required is a new declaration of independence, not just in our nation, but in our own lives—from ideology and small thinking, prejudice and bigotry—on appeal not to our new masters but to our better angels."

OBAMA A11

Jailers probed on kidnap

Talks begin to free Red Cross team

By Julie S. Alipio
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—SULU Gov. Abdusakar Tan said yesterday "hands will roll" if provincial jail employees are implicated in the abduction of an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) team by suspected Abu Sayyaf kidnapers.

An investigation this week will look into the Jan. 13 plot of 12 inmates that left one dead and its possible connection to the abduction of three ICRC staffers two days later.

A dismissed jail employee is one of the suspects in the abduction of American Marine, 38, a former national and head officer of the ICRC Western Mindanao Region, engineer Italian Eugenio Vigni, 62, and engineer Marie Jose Luciani, 37, a water sanitation expert from Davao City.

The three were attacked by armed men just a few meters away from the Sulu provincial jail in Jolo town.

The attack that left one inmate dead and its possible connection to the abduction of three ICRC staffers two days later.

JULIE S. ALIPIO



PIR SENSE One of the 48 street-dancing contingents in Cebu's top tourist attraction, the Sinulog Festival held in honor of the Santo Niño, joins the parade on Fuente Osmeña Avenue in Cebu City during yesterday's culminating activity. (Story on Page A6)

River blessing can't be taken for granted

By Masat Fasbison
Contributor

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—WE WERE embracing the river to our right, and the river was embracing us back.

Over the past three years, our just new fast-flowing restaurants have

second advertisement clients. River taxis, which can be booked through the Sulu River, Life Savers Foundation at the Liceo de Cagayan University, offered breakfasting. 45-minute tours from behind the San Agustin Cathedral to the mouth of the Marikina River and back.

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo

also experienced the thrill of whitewater rafting in the upper reaches of the Cagayan de Oro River.

Mayor Constantino Jaruda last year unveiled a plan to "rehabilitate" the river, a grand blueprint that consists a riverbank pedestrian boardwalk to be called "the Golden Mile," and "landscaping" features right in

Political party ready to take in Puno as 2010 poll bet

By Christian V. Espinosa
and Norman Bernardino

THE PARTY IS READY, BUT IS THE presidential prospect up to the challenge?

Ang Kapigayan, the fast-year-old political party campaigning under the banner of a "God-connected" politics, yesterday opened its doors to Chief Justice Reynato Puno amid mounting calls for him to seek the presidency next year.

Nancy Pacheco, party founder, said he had been meeting calls from supporters urging the party leadership to begin serious talks with Puno, about the possibility of his candidacy being to be discussed last week.

"The word is ready," Pacheco said the tonight. "But we don't want to put any pressure on the Chief Justice. It will all be his decision. We just want to let him know that he's most welcome in our party."

Asked about the idea of a Puno candidacy, President Macapagal-Arroyo's deputy spokesperson said in Manila: "It's the right of every Filipino to have an ambition or dream of becoming president of our country."

"We wish them well and we wish them luck," Anthony Golea said in an

POLITICAL 38

6K: From housing units to way of life

By Ma. Ceres P. Deyo

IT USED TO BE CALLED KEBAYA (Order) village, the last of about 100 tiny houses, upon boys (pik-pik) and other gangs that preyed on hapless citizens.

The place was a cesspool of filth, disease, and poverty. The place was a cesspool of filth, disease, and poverty. The place was a cesspool of filth, disease, and poverty.

The place was a cesspool of filth, disease, and poverty. The place was a cesspool of filth, disease, and poverty. The place was a cesspool of filth, disease, and poverty.

That was more than 10 years ago, before Captain Ben Clark's

General Kaligaya (3PC-08) built its first over housing project for the poor in 1999, in Baguio Kaligaya, Cagayan City.

Baguio Kaligaya (nowhere) was not as hopeful and bright as its name sounded when it first began as a relocation area. Some 2,000 poor families were dumped there in 1982 to get them out of sight during an international beauty pageant and an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting.

The place was a vast expanse dotted by countless holes on the

GENERAL KALIGAYA community was in Baguio City.



Cop on UN team shows best in Pinoy

By Tere Quimondo

THIS POLICE OFFICER IS ONLY too glad to champion those who look down on Pinoy.

Senior Supt. Benjamin Duran Jr. seizes every opportunity to disprove the so-called Pinoy World impression that the Pinoy could not do anything beyond the mental.

And he does so in Cagayan as deputy chief strategist at the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (Unmog-1), helping reflect the native nation's



DURAN: On the UN front line in Georgia.

CONTRIBUTOR



The Sony Cyber-shot T660 phone is powered by Sony Exmor and has an ultra-compact 10.6-to-10.8mm ultra-thin. It comes with a Sony Cyber-shot 18.3MP 1/2.3" sensor and has the following features:



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'Mistaken notions hinder progress on autism front'

The 1992-93 Edition

SOCIETY, AND SOMETIMES THEIR own family's, almost attitude towards autism remains the "greatest obstacle" to helping to do for the rights and needs of a person with the disorder. Commission on Human Rights (OHR) Chair Leticia de Lima said yesterday.

It's like to most familiar podium the the
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 and used in a speech
 following the August
 talk the morning of
 the fall of Asia.

DON

Autism Spectrum Pathway

De Lima, whose 28-year-old son had been hit with a bullet Sunday, opened the CBS last year in person with disabilities, saying

The CRR should endeavour to assist the diverse needs of people with autism and their families. The Linnets advised proceeding as follows:

- the need that they are aware of human rights issues, one of particular importance is the *condition of autism*—the dignity of autistic children whose value is based on his or her inherent self-worth, the example of *non-verbal* or *self-defensive* initiative, equality of all, and the *anti-stigmatising*, which are given an early to maintain the foundations of the process with appropriate social

become the parent, he is not a
and it gives me something to
and a sense of fulfillment to
know that this artistic, talented
and sensitive young man is my
own son.

“I, therefore, defy anyone to tell us any one, or to anyone with AGD for that matter, anything less than we need or are entitled to or are disabled, or to being of blood with a disease.” What could

DeLima said that while he believed that there would be some who would be attracted by society "are not un-bounded," society is still doing "perpetrate the problem, and making the progression of a dehumanizing and inhumane."

"We being obsessed with trying to blend in with the socially typical, the real needs of the most important persons in the equation tend to be neglected. The simple truth is that the last thing a child or person with ASD needs is to be treated like any other person. They really do have special needs, and to ignore this is to do them a disservice." The Linnis said.

BI deported 142 aliens in '08

THE BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION departed 220 employees last year as part of a program to consolidate its operations facility in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The discounts included are:

In a statement, investigators claimed that 150,000 to 200,000 Libyans visit many of the churches each year, but that their numbers have been falling since the 1990s. They said that many of the churches were badly damaged.

and fugitives have parties in their households.

Thirteen Ukrainians are listed topped the list of deportees, followed by 25 Chinese, 13 Russians, nine Americans, and eight Japanese.

The detention center, he added, was not a "boarding house" for illegal aliens.

Corrections

IN THE AIR ON EXHIBIT, a gallery of four slides, goes 6-12 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, and slides 13-18 on the same day. Admission free.

4-page article: "Levinson found
no jail" — misinterpreted that be-
cause Levinson said that longlines
and hook boats, Leveles that do

IN THE SAME ISSUE, *Acute* on Page 412 of the Opinion, specified the necessity of a fact on a combination's nature to be considered.

under the "Newspaper" column on line—There, and now—making election considerations. The mistake Tennessee...not Tex

BUTTER, JAN. 16 DRIVE, as well as the military "gateway"—which Tsang had brought Fairways and Tsang's associates to Everest Base Camp via the road in the base.

le on Page A2—"Don't be lulled into thinking that hurricanes bring hurricanes-gulf stream in the way. The new study of hurricanes and all the Florida Gulf."

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

2nd Week in Ordinary Time

One day, when the disciples were in the temple, many people asked him of Jesus and of the Father.

...the impact and the structure
... "Why is it that both the direct
... the paper is not?" I said to

The real ones, a pair of second-grade pupils will obtain and use money and check company law to make sure the ducks and their both their new and, new-kind."

It was an odd fact, because Chi was an old ship, sailing a worn old windmill, but she was would never let herself be lost; that

While the Law of Moses commands that the Pharaohs' daughters be given in marriage to the sons of Israel, the text does not say that the daughters of Israel be given in marriage to the sons of Pharaoh. The text does say that the daughters of Israel be given in marriage to the sons of Pharaoh, but it is not clear if this is a command or a suggestion. The text is ambiguous, and it is not clear if this is a command or a suggestion.

and thus one must consider the ethical and regulations that justify to demand that they must not need to do so. What purpose would it be to wish them, like a bourgeoisie of a few of the Kingdoms of Spain? Would you think of her and her education?

A cultural bias arises, whether as a consequence, which is not only going to be the same, as long as we are not it. It is a pity in the night of the end of our story, which is to be the same, our light is about the same, or in reality for what they are in the same.

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Guthrie Jensen
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT

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By Philip C. Tolman

[illegible]

There, a personal policy inconsistency, there must be a lot of gaffes to come off, and there must be total coordination, and a total disqualification from holding public office or entering into contracts with the government. There are the minimum conditions, Villalpando told the buyers in a telephone interview.

"If there are exceptions to the discipline, there are could probably on those and discuss the matter," he said.

Grand, a former gaffing buddy of the late Dennis Fredland, Marco, and is an uncredited personal aide. He is in

MEANWHILE THE study made it clear it would not break its way as the studies may have it had a clear structured secondary, tertiary and vocational schools in the country.

Anthony Gales deeply persuaded that spokespersons conducted interviews who would say in our last hour: "make sure no rights will be violated."

He said looking
the system the
would be to place
divided to "light
members" to work
standing up with
"the people" in

Perfect system
"We really have to perfect the system because if not there will be no results," he says. "Really, it's time."

The issue again erupted after the media disclosed a number of drug tests as part of the government's intensified campaign against illegal drugs.

The issue again erupted after the media disclosed the following allegations that police officers were made to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to restrain the so-called Malabon Boys.

Violate rights

Human rights groups expressed reservations about the drug tests, but might violate the students' rights. One such fear was that the tests might compromise a student's image and reputation at school.

He said the government must give a number of benefits from the legislation.

He said the government would help in the construction of a road with a more solid figure on the number of drug users in schools. He said it would help the government in the appropriation of more suitable funding for the construction.

Deter students

Debus said the new award also help dissuade students from taking illegal drugs.

"It is timely to do this as illegal drug use has become a major problem in some parts of the country," Education Secretary Bill Lages said on the spot.

Individuals who are "willing to listen" and "possibly consider" a plea bargain offer from government prosecutors.

The Southpawmen First Division is breaking two colonial patterns—the corruption of public officials and violation of the Anti-Bribe and Conspiracy Act—against Dittel. There is also a pending civil case against him in the magistrate court.

Dittel is married to Dr. Gertrude E. Dittel, a resident of Inverness. Her lady friend Dr. Maroon and the physician of the Marine Corps.

That is not general policy, and that was what happened in the case of Amstar. The company's 1995 earnings at the

government. In those cases, he has sometimes, at least, refrained from. Villa Iguala said, alluding to the case of naturalized Puerto Rican Efrén Echeburúa who joined guerrillas to leave charges in the case against him, "I think he should be charged."

It seems to the theory the government would drop all the other cases against Ullrich, while his lawyer could ask a lighter sentence for the lesser of four he would plead guilty to. Tilly's wife said.

State prosecutors charged that Dynegy used its connections to Merck to influence the contract to build the nuclear power plant, which would be awarded to US West. Westinghouse Electric Corp. and Bechtel Inc.

The large payouts were offset by gains in companies increased by the second round. Based on VantageSource's

original offer of a 3.5-percent commission was, estimates of Ito's bid were as high as \$15 million.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) said that in 1974 it was asked by Washington and Manila and Rice to seek representation from its then leaders with Marcos.

Blount subsequently stated his preference for Washingtonian strategy. Cato met meeting on June 4, 1974. The next text was received on Feb. 7, 1976, despite the objections of Sen. William French Smith of Montana.

The years later President George
Agnew declared the government was
not with Birmingham. Incident
This led to the May 1968 of
case against Washington and
and Robert Kennedy.

The plant has remained closed since a heavy bombing in Filipino territory, which resulted paying for it in the sum of billions of dollars.

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The Phil. Trial Judges League, Inc. composed of the Municipal Trial Court Judges, the Municipal Circuit Trial Court Judges and the Shari'a Circuit Court Judges throughout the country manifest its support to the leadership of CHIEF JUSTICE REYNALDO PUNO of the Supreme Court. Judge KAUCURI L. JANHUL, the National President of the league said that Chief Justice Puno has maintained his impeccable integrity, judicial independence and his moral uprightness since he became the Chief Justice and has introduced changes in the Judiciary that resulted in the people's giving more faith and confidence in the Judiciary providing court accessibility especially to the underprivileged of our society. We, therefore, appeal that the Judiciary should be spared from politics and respect its Judicial Independence.

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Young Liberals call for Unity towards Victory!



On the occasion of the 63rd anniversary of the Liberal Party, the Kalusugang Liberal ng Pilipinas (KALAPI) calls on our Party leaders, particularly **Sen. Mar Roxas** and **DEEN Sec. Lito Antonio**, to put differences behind for the sake of Party unity and Party victory.

The coming 2010 elections would be the defining moment for the Liberal Party and the liberal movement in this country. It is therefore crucial for us Liberals to gather up our forces and build a strong united front for the future, for the country, and for our future. And this can only be achieved if we can come together as one.

It is time for us Liberals to exercise our right to choose our Party leaders. KALAPI calls for the holding of a National Convention of all Liberals, in order to put this issue of Party leadership to rest once and for all.

It is our dream to establish a progressive and sustainable society. This is only possible through a leadership genuinely willing to submit to the core values of democracy, human rights, rule of law and equal opportunity.

Despite the challenges that confronts our country and Party, KALAPI only prays that our moral imperative to our ideals and principles remain stronger than the conflicts that divide us. All these divisions and rifts must come to pass, but we cannot wait as time is gold and time lost is lost forever.

Ang ating harmon, magkaisa pa sa ugatpa - ng Laping Liberal at ng buong Pilipinas.

PAKAKAISBA, NGAYON NA!

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
 MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010

Political party ready to take in Puno as 2010 poll bet

Inquirer/AI
 Interview with radio talk show host, who said to be the subject of an impeachment complaint, continues to swell off demands that he not be president, industry rumors often he called more figures leaders to act as a "second front" in Philippine politics.

On January 18, a leader of the Ispita Gatcha Filipino Independent launched a signature campaign designed to wrestle Puno to accept the challenge. He said Puno is in a bind and that he is ready to accept the challenge. He said Puno is in a bind and that he is ready to accept the challenge.

Not available enough
 While support swelled at Puno as a possible presidential candidate, saying he "does not know his politics."

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Some people can trust
 The signature drive to push Puno to run for president in 2010 only drew people who "immediately they say trust," inside Minority Leaders Aquilino Pimentel II said yesterday.

"It's interesting of the lack of trust, but they are not those who have support for his presidency," Pimentel said.

HONGKONG \$99
 FULL PACKAGE
 1. AIRFARE
 2. HOTEL
 3. MEALS
 4. TRANSPORT
 5. INSURANCE
 6. VISA
 7. TAXI
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HONGKONG \$10
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RAKSO 10th Anniversary EXCITING TREATS

EUROPEAN AIRLINES
 1. AIRFARE
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 4. TRANSPORT
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RAKSO "My Country"
 1. AIRFARE
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PROMO FARES
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JOB OPENINGS
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RAKSO TRAVEL
 (02) 512-9667

KOREA
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ASIA
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HKG/CHINA
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OCEANIA
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US/OTHERS
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Cj Puno's call and the feast of the Sto. Niño

AFP men in PSG unconstitutional

LAST WEEK, PHILIPPO, CHIEF AND BRYAN...
the feast of the Sto. Niño...
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Remigrating disaster

I LIVED WITH DISASTER THREE TIMES...
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United for people power

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Aid for Vizcaya workers sparks more controversy

By Mark Gorman
Naperville, Illinois

NAPOLEON, ILL.—When the provincial government started distributing the controversial social assistance to more than 1,000 employees on Jan. 9, officials quickly learned that the money was being used for other purposes.

Controversy continued to build the rest of the global economic crisis assistance (GEC) of as much as \$250,000 in provincial officials and employees followed the money to the provincial government's office of the Chief of the Latin American for the rest of the assistance.

Board Member Patricia Bunker on Jan. 15 criticized the guidelines issued by the

provincial's local finance committee (LFC), which requested the employees to sign an "agreement of understanding" before the GEC would be given to them.

"It is a superficial, arbitrary and unilateral exercise of power by the executive director," it has no basis in law, says, it has developed fairly employees, who were very much in the family," said Dantes, who was among those included in the GEC payroll.

In the end, the employees' financial situation in relation to the province the money they received should be the first of the payment of \$21 million for the GEC to be issued through by agencies such as the Commission on Audit.

Employees who refused to sign the

understanding would not receive the GEC, the provincial said.

The province had failed to reach for consented Prefecto Mariano S., provincial treasurer and LFC chair, in his office. He was reportedly on official travel in Mexico.

Staffers' dispute, provincial budget officer Alejandro Gonzalez, declined to comment, saying she was not authorized by the LFC chair to speak on expenses.

What the LFC did was clearly illegal in that it was not the appropriate authority to sign the understanding of an authorization to the LFC to promulgate such guidelines," Dantes said.

The GEC was not made available through an ordinance by the provincial board on Jan. 17, supposedly to help provincial workers against the effects of the global economic meltdown.

It was not authorized to the employees to use the GEC to buy goods or services, but to use it to pay for the employees' expenses.

Employees' financial situation in relation to the province the money they received should be the first of the payment of \$21 million for the GEC to be issued through by agencies such as the Commission on Audit.

Employees who refused to sign the



AT-A-GLANCE *Statewide aid for the poor during the last of 1998.*

Pag-IBIG Fund

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MODULAR PARTITIONS, FURNITURE AND DESIGN SYSTEMS FOR OUTSTANDING BRANCH, CUBAO BRANCH AND SANAGUIGAN BRANCH

The Pag-IBIG Fund, Inc. is an autonomous government corporation created by Republic Act No. 4920, known as the "Pag-IBIG Fund Act of 1966" (R.A. 4920), to provide housing and financial services to its members.

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Stolen image in nat'l cultural treasure found

By Renato Reyes
Naperville, Illinois

MANILA, Philippines—It took only a few days to recover a 19th-century image of St. John the Apostle, which was stolen from the Basilica of San Agustin in Manila, Philippines.

The image, a 19th-century painting of St. John the Apostle, was stolen from the Basilica of San Agustin in Manila, Philippines.

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NEWSBRIEFS

BAVARIAN CITY

Business prospects rise
MOST of the business applications approved during the first half of the year went out to the city's business prospects.

Proper Affairs, office of charge of the city's business prospects, said that the city's business prospects are rising.

Speaking at the Bavarian Chamber of Commerce, he said that the city's business prospects are rising.

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Texters down Beermen; SLR up

By Mynick R. Castillo

TALK N' TEXT JERREDY DONDON HEATED HIS CAREER GAME and downed San Miguel Beers, 119-96, last night for a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven semifinal clash in the SPC-Philippines Cup at the Aztec Arena Coliseum in Cebu.

The Trining Terons won in a close matchup by getting big runs from Arroyo, Dizon and Rondaño as Dondon's play made steady work at the hotly-played center court.

After a 10-10 tie in the first quarter, Dondon took over in the second quarter, scoring 10 points, including the go-ahead shot in the fourth quarter. He finished with 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to guide the Terons to a 76-61 win over the Beermen after losing the first games of their own semifinal series.

After a 10-10 tie in the first quarter, Dondon took over in the second quarter, scoring 10 points, including the go-ahead shot in the fourth quarter. He finished with 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to guide the Terons to a 76-61 win over the Beermen.

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31 JANUARY 2010

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Top seed Wesley off to big start

NEW ANGLE: THE Netherlands' top seed Wesley So started his career in the world's top 100 in 2008 and is now ranked 10th in the world.

The 19-year-old So had a strong start in the 2009 World Cup, winning the gold medal in the 2009 World Cup.

So's victory in the 2009 World Cup was a significant achievement for the Netherlands, as it was the first time they had won the World Cup since 1999.

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, FORD TOUGH GETS GOING.

168K
ALL-IN low downpayment for the 7-seater Ford Everest XL7 MT 4x2 2.5L TDCi

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ALL-IN low downpayment for the Ford Ranger Trendor MT 4x2 2.5L TDCi with FREE bedliner

Ford Tough is now more affordable than ever with an ALL-IN low downpayment offer on the tough Ford Ranger and the strong and stylish Ford Everest. Whatever you choose, you're guaranteed a vehicle that lives up to its Bull Ford Tough legacy in style, quality, performance and fuel economy. When the going gets tough, you need a vehicle that is tougher than tough. Call 800-FORD (3473) for more details.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2003



PUNIFICATION RITE Twenty-year-old women receive punishment drives control along the streets during a rare public ceremony in Kandahar. Executives from the Taliban government are seen in the crowd. The annual ceremony celebrates the coming of age for young people.

7 killed, dozens hurt in Kabul suicide car bomb

KABUL—A SUICIDE CAR bomb struck Monday night people heading home from a mosque in a heavily guarded road near the German Embassy in the Afghan capital.

Apparently, a US service member died Saturday when the car exploded on a US-47 transport helicopter and it made a hard landing in a narrow alleyway near the German Embassy in the Afghan capital.

In a third attack on Saturday, a suicide bomber in a motorcade charged a group of US troops and Afghan police in the center of the city, killing one soldier and wounding others. The bomber was killed in the attack. The bomber was killed in the attack. The bomber was killed in the attack.

Germans involved
The Germans have been in the center of the city, killing one soldier and wounding others. The bomber was killed in the attack. The bomber was killed in the attack.

Taliban responsible
The Taliban claimed responsibility for the bomb attack in Kabul and said German military officers were the targets. A spokesman for the German Embassy in Kabul said "some persons" were involved in the bomb, but it did not give names. He said they had no personal details.

Four Afghan civilians died and at least 21 others were wounded, said Gen. Mawlaqi and Gen. Mawlaqi. The Afghan military said it was not involved in the attack. The Afghan military said it was not involved in the attack. The Afghan military said it was not involved in the attack.

The US military said it was not involved in the attack. The US military said it was not involved in the attack. The US military said it was not involved in the attack.

Taliban militants close girls' schools

KANDAHAR—TALIBAN militants have taken control of the city in southern Afghanistan, depriving more than 40,000 girls of schooling while building military bases in the city. The Taliban have taken control of the city in southern Afghanistan, depriving more than 40,000 girls of schooling while building military bases in the city.

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British forces, a reported suicide attack by a Taliban fighter.

The Taliban have taken control of the city in southern Afghanistan, depriving more than 40,000 girls of schooling while building military bases in the city. The Taliban have taken control of the city in southern Afghanistan, depriving more than 40,000 girls of schooling while building military bases in the city.

WorldBriefs

245 still detained at Guantanamo

KUWAIT—The US Department of Defense said Saturday that it transferred 10 detainees out of Guantanamo, leaving about 245 of the detainees there as President Bush's administration prepares for later this year. The detainees are still in Guantanamo, leaving about 245 of the detainees there as President Bush's administration prepares for later this year.

Malaysian Muslims wins in election

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—The opposition Islamic party won a heavily-contested by-election on Saturday in Kuala Lumpur. The Islamic party won a heavily-contested by-election on Saturday in Kuala Lumpur. The Islamic party won a heavily-contested by-election on Saturday in Kuala Lumpur.

Tehran court jails accused in plot

TEHRAN—A Tehran court has jailed a number of people accused of involvement in a 2002 operation to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran. The court has jailed a number of people accused of involvement in a 2002 operation to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Zimbabwe opposition leader back home

HARARE, ZIMBABWE—Zimbabwe's main opposition leader has returned home after a long exile. The opposition leader has returned home after a long exile. The opposition leader has returned home after a long exile.

Toyota to halve production amid low demand

TOKYO—JAPANESE AUTO giant Toyota Motor Corp. said Saturday it would cut production of its cars in North America by 50 percent in January and February.

Toyota will produce roughly 10,000 units per day in January and February, down from 20,000 units per day in December. Toyota will produce roughly 10,000 units per day in January and February, down from 20,000 units per day in December.

The company will also stop operations at 11 of its 12 assembly facilities for three days. The company will also stop operations at 11 of its 12 assembly facilities for three days.

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The **WORLD**

Editor Lawrence B. Green

Russian, Ukrainian PMs reach gas deal



RUSSIA'S Prime Minister Vladimir Putin (right) and his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich agree on Moscow for talks.

"There is nothing changing about that. It's the money we often postpone payment of Ukraine to it is a problem to pay it," Yanukovich said across a conference line, whose crisis-ridden economy is forecast to contract by up to 5.5 percent this year, says a source at least such high prices and means Russia to pay higher transit fees for gas to export through Ukraine.

Russian officials had earlier questioned whether Yanukovich, a former gas trader, had the necessary mandate to discuss such deals.

In Kiev, a source in Yanukovich's office said there were no direct talks between the president and the prime minister.

"The prime minister has a full mandate at the talks."

Otherwise, she would not be talking in a press conference, she added.

Russia led talks of government of all countries facing or negotiating in gas to its "Moscow International Conference on Gas Supply" last week but more complex.

The G20 summit in Moscow was held in Moscow to avoid a crisis because Russia could speak with one voice. Ukraine was the only G20 member to abstain from the G20 summit last week in London where Russia, after its war in Iraq and earlier in Iraq.

A key hurdle to ending the dispute appeared to have been Ukraine when a consortium of European gas companies said they had agreed to supply enough gas to fill the empty pipeline and restore pressure so that exports could resume. **Reuters**

MOSCOW—THE PRIME ministers of Ukraine and Russia said on Sunday they had reached an outline deal to restore gas supplies after marathon talks which dragged on into the small hours of the morning.

Putin's spokeswoman, Dmitry Peskov said the deal envisaged Kiev paying much higher transport prices for its own gas, but a 30 percent discount for this year to return for not increasing the transit fees it receives for Russian gas.

From 2015, Ukraine would pay the full European market price for gas, he said.

The leaders instructed their respective national gas companies, Russian Gazprom and Ukraine's Naftogaz, to draw up a formal agreement and once that had been agreed, supplies to Europe across Ukraine would resume, Peskov said.

"This would happen in the very next hours," he said.

Russian Foreign Minister Putin said his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich was under intense pressure from the European Union to resolve the dispute, which has cut gas supplies to much of eastern Europe since Aug. 7 and damaged both countries' reputations as reliable energy partners.

While Putin, Kiev's parliament leader, had full authority to seal an agreement, it remained unclear whether Yanukovich's domestic po-

litical rival Viktor Yushchenko would support the deal reached in Moscow. Last year, Yanukovich first in Moscow and agreed a gas deal with Putin, only to see Yanukovich overthrown in the national elections.

The terms of the talks followed a summit in Moscow of governments in the Kremlin on Saturday afternoon which failed to resolve the dispute.

Russia cut off supplies to Ukraine on Aug. 1 because it would not pay higher prices for its gas. It's days later, reports there to restore the crisis through Ukraine could avoid Russian accusations that Kiev was "stealing" gas intended for export.

After the Kremlin meeting, Yanukovich announced Ukraine's position on the issue at the heart of the dispute, saying that Kiev had no gas to pay Russian prices for gas supplies, more than double current levels.

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Lexus bullish despite dwindling auto sales in RP

Officials optimistic luxury market will not be hit hard in '09

By Albert L. Ho

LEXUS MANILA IS OPTIMISTIC THAT it will between 200 and 300 units of luxury vehicles this year, even amid the global economic slump.

In an interview during the launch of the first Lexus showroom in the country, Lexus Manila president Daniel Ito said the luxury car market was not expected to be hit that much by the slump, highlighting that most consumers were choosing to do now.

"We're not confident that the luxury market will be there. The market won't be severely affected by the slump. There's demand, we're still seeing it," he said.

At the year-end, luxury vehicles accounted for 1.4 percent of the overall automotive market.

If there would be a dip in this share, it would probably just be very minimal, he said.

"During previous years, like in 2007 and 2008 when we had the Asian financial crisis, the share of luxury vehicles only went down from 1.8 percent to 1.6 percent or 1.4 percent. It's just a small loss," he added.

For luxury dealer Ito in the Philippines, he said the company was not aiming for a specific market share, but was just planning to sell between 300 and 350 units.

Since the opening of Lexus Manila's 13,500-square-meter showroom at the First Bangkok Global City last November, he said results had been "exceeding."

"We've been getting a lot of walk-ins, an average of 20 a day. We saw more reservations, and there's just over three

days," he said.

For its Philippine dealer, Lexus Manila brought in five new models, three sedans and two sport utility vehicles. Prices of these models range from P2.5 million to P8.2 million.

Ito said the Global City showroom would be the only Lexus Manila showroom in the country for the next five years, as it is the most prime or flagship location as well as concept and design.

In Manila, it created a "bigger" movement, he said.

Lexus Manila is a joint venture between Toyota Motor Philippines (75 percent) and Mitsui & Co. Ltd. (25 percent).

The latter brand was also recently launched in emerging markets Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Forex liberalization a good move despite crisis, BSP says

By Michelle V. Irujo

MAKING IT EASIER FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE to exit the country may seem ill-timed at this time when the economy is facing the pinch of depleted funds.

But the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas insists that it has good reasons for liberalizing foreign exchange regulations.

For the country's monetary authority, relaxed rules on foreign exchange transactions would signal to the capital market that it was confident the economy was resilient and thought sound.

"Normally, when there is economic difficulty, foreign exchange regulations are tightened, instead of relaxed," BSP Deputy Governor Gina Goangco said.

"It is to prevent badly needed foreign funds from easily leaving the country."

But he said the BSP was adopting a different method of keeping whatever reserves are left and making more to come.

"By relaxing the rules, investors won't be afraid to come in because they know they can easily pull out money if they want to."

Goangco explained.

Relaxed rules will actually help generate confidence among foreign investors, he added.

During the meeting of its Monetary Board last December, the BSP approved the third and final phase of liberalization of foreign exchange regulations.

The reforms, to be implemented 15 days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation, are contained in the new Manual of Regulations on Foreign Exchange Transactions.

With the reforms in place, banks will no longer be required to submit to the BSP reports on the sale of foreign currencies to entities waiting to convert abroad.

Also, private banks will no longer be required to seek BSP approval when tapping foreign loans with a maturity of at least one year.

Banks will likewise be allowed to dispose on credit lines the explanation of foreign currencies used in buying pre-determined government securities and other deposits maturing in at least 90 days.

Cebu Pacific offers promos for int'l flights

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacorte

LEADING BUDGET AIRLINE CEBU PACIFIC is offering a 120-day promotion for most of its international routes from Cebu, Cebu, Manila and Zamboanga to London.

The sale will run until Jan. 22 and is subject to travel from Feb. 1 to March 31, the airline said.

The sale is non-transferable, and does not include new fares and government taxes.

The airline has effected more than 20,000 seats for its international sale. The included Cebu Pacific flights to Bangkok, Guangzhou, Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, London, Manila, Singapore and Taipei.

Cebu Pacific spokesperson Candel Irujo said. "We hope this may will also attract the opportunity to travel to our neighboring Asian destinations. This should also encourage more arrivals in a sector where we could see some recovery. We believe construction can see a recovery again."

Nadecor hits back at Benguet

By Rita T. Chua

NADDECOR DEVELOPMENT Corp. (Nadecor) has issued due to its dispute with publicly listed mining firm Benguet Corp. did not lead to the latter's inability to complete the Knapokong copper-gold project in Compostela Valley.

"A recent complaint of Nadecor to remove BC as an operator of Knapokong, then the NPRA is not the cause of its failure to operate Knapokong, but rather, the other," Nadecor president Gonzalo T. Colding and Executive Director Benjamin H. Colding said in a joint letter to the Philippine stock exchange.

Nadecor, the states-owned, said that exploration activities in copper-gold properties such as Knapokong actually take about five years, but BC has been involved in the project since 1992 when the government assumed the mine at production that big agency (NPRA) on Knapokong to Nadecor at state-owned and BC's operator.

The Knapokong project is one of the company's top five priority mining projects.

Nadecor claimed that Benguet had no financial capability to complete the exploration at such low cost, which was about P200 million at the time.

"BC has not conducted proper exploration activities in Knapokong since 1997 and as such there is no exploration to be expected... Three years

and five more proposals have been submitted to NPRA for a feasibility study," he said.

He said that Knapokong and BC will submit a joint proposal to the NPRA.

The letter stated that it terminated the operating agreement on Knapokong with BC in August 2008.

"Given BC's long track record of failure to develop Knapokong into a productive mine in the last 12 years since active exploration was last done by a third party in 1997 and BC's deteriorating financial health, Nadecor has sought to be allowed by government regulators to take over the operation of Knapokong," Nadecor said.

Nadecor also refused reports that Benguet was in discussion with another group to lead about the mine-run. Colding said.

Nadecor attacked in the PSE letter a March 5, 2008 letter of BC which required the effect of its decision and said that the company had been involved.

"This was the key issue that led Nadecor to believe that BC was not serious in moving Knapokong forward after Nadecor is already aware that BC does not have funds to do so," he said.

Benguet replied that it suspended exploration activities at the Knapokong copper-gold project in Compostela Valley in September, its largest mining property, because of a dispute with Nadecor.

RURAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

RETIRED/PHILIPPINE MAIL & TELEGRAPH

Congratulations Finance Sec. Margarito B. Teves "Finance Minister of the Year in Asia"

The Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines happily and proudly congratulates Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves for being named Asia's Finance Minister of the Year by London-based magazine *The Banker* (sponsor of this prestigious award). Founded in 1936, this monthly magazine on global finance is considered one of the world's largest and most respected publications on international finance. The magazine's finance editor, Philip Alexander, wrote to Sec. Teves:

- "... thanks to progressive improvements in revenue collection, lower public debt levels and more stable finances at the state-owned enterprises, the Philippines has entered the current global credit crunch in a much less vulnerable position than during past financial crises."
- "... represents a real vote of confidence by the markets in your work and the work of your department."

Our association cannot agree more with the statements made by Mr. Alexander. Indeed, Sec. Teves as a leading player in President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Economic Team has, over the years, implemented fundamental fiscal reforms under less than ideal conditions. These reforms have borne fruit and have allowed the Philippines greater flexibility in handling the global economic crisis.

Sec. Teves is the unique combination of education, experience, and heart. His strong experiences in the private sector, his years as pro-life legislator in the Philippine Congress, and his effective and results-driven leadership of the Landbank of the Philippines as technocrat bear this out. But it is the pro-poor and pro-countrywide bias of his heart that enables him most to countryside enterprises, rural, cooperative and microfinance banks, and micro and small entrepreneurs nationwide.

- We thank and salute President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for appointing Sec. Teves as Finance Secretary. This award is also in recognition of President Arroyo's leadership, and that of her Economic Team's collective effort, to implement reform measures that prepare us to face the global economic crisis with some amount of confidence.
- We thank the Commission on Appointments for confirming Sec. Teves' appointment as Finance Secretary.
- We thank Congress for their active role in shaping economic legislation, for their strong partnership with the Executive in implementing key reforms providing the necessary policy tools to uplift the country's economy.

For some of our countrymen, it may be easy to say that there are only a few good men and women in government. For rural bankers nationwide, we say, Sec. Teves is certainly one of them.

BUSINESS

Inflation rate seen falling to 6%

Easing of price hikes to boost consumption

By Michelle K. Neco

After surging to record highs last year, the average inflation rate this year would likely fall to 6 percent or even below, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) says.

The government expects the inflation rate to range from 6 percent to 10 percent this year. BSP Deputy Governor Dean Corpus said the easing of inflation has been dampened in the last two months of 2008 indicated that this year's inflation could also be lower than forecast.

"It could be down to the low end of the range, which is 6 percent, if not even lower," said BSP Deputy Governor Dean Corpus. The average inflation rate in 2008 was 10.5 percent, the highest in 17 years. The rise in consumer price

index last year was linked to the unprecedented rise in food prices in the world market. Oil prices hit a historic high of \$147 a barrel in July partly because of the sustained rise in demand from the growing economies of China and India.

The Philippines, being highly dependent on imported food, saw its annual inflation rate last year, double-digit levels from June to December.

High inflation weighed down to increase both of businesses and households, which were forced to raising and lower their spending mostly on necessities.

The economic slide in the United States and Europe, which started from the failure of banks and financial institutions to increase lending, has translated to a recovery in the US and Europe market, pulled down

global demand for oil. As a result, oil prices started retreating last year, falling to below \$100 a barrel.

Domestic inflation may be contained to single digits level... 2009 is expected to be around 6 percent in December.

Although the global crisis is seen to weigh down on the country's economic growth prospects this year, Philippine and the Philippines were unlikely to register contraction. Due to limited the easing of inflation would somewhat prove consumption.

The government's economic growth last year improved growth of 5.7 percent to 5.2 percent. The projection shows an expected decline from the estimated growth of 4.2 to 4.6 percent last year, but officials said it would be considered down given the situation in countries badly hit by the global crisis.

GOINGS-ON

Security Bank cited

SECURITY BANK GROUP (SBG) has been cited for the "Best Bank for Customer Service" award by the Philippine Development Bank (PDB) for the 2008 Survey.

The survey recognized by SBG, members and customers of more than 20 financial institutions across the country in 2008. "This citation is Security Bank's pursuit to deliver the best in customer service," said SBG President and CEO Dr. S. S. Sison.

Helgin bags top award
CELESTIAL FILM POLARIS FILM, a film production company, has been awarded the "Best Film" award by the Philippine Development Bank (PDB) for the 2008 Survey.

Helgin's film production company, which is a subsidiary of the PDB, has been awarded the "Best Film" award by the PDB for the 2008 Survey.

Program on tourism
THE PHILIPPINE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (PTDA) has been awarded the "Best Tourism Development Program" award by the PDB for the 2008 Survey.

The PTDA has been awarded the "Best Tourism Development Program" award by the PDB for the 2008 Survey.

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Napocor focusing on off-grid operations

By Miguel L. Ho

WITH MORE THAN 70 PERCENT of its Luzon and Visayas capacity now privatized, Napocor is focusing on off-grid operations.

Napocor president Frank Sison said the company is focusing on off-grid operations, which are the company's main source of revenue.

"This is a really very big thing and we're preparing for it, but there is an aspect to this that Napocor will continue to invest in, the off-grid sector," Sison said.

The off-grid sector is a very important part of the country's energy mix, particularly in the rural areas.

He said Napocor was also studying the possibility of developing business units that could also be self-sufficient in generating revenue.

Expansion of Mindanao power plant shelved

THE PLANNED 1,000-MEGAWATT (MW) expansion of a 2,000-MW Mindanao power plant may have to be shelved until the government can secure financing for the project.

Enron Asia Pacific, which is the main contractor of the plant, said it was unable to secure financing for the project.

The plant is located in the province of Mindanao, which is one of the poorest provinces in the country.

Enron Asia Pacific, which is the main contractor of the plant, said it was unable to secure financing for the project.

Fertilizer prices still dropping

By Nina T. Chiongben

FERTILIZER PRICES HAVE DROPPED 50 PERCENT since last September 2008 levels due to the continued decline in the cost of crude in the world market,

the Agricultural Department reported early this week.

Quoting a report by Agricultural Department, the department said it is expected that the price of fertilizer will continue to drop.

The price of fertilizer is expected to drop by 50 percent in the next few months.

The price of fertilizer is expected to drop by 50 percent in the next few months.

2008 fertilizer sales were up 10 percent from 2007, but the price of fertilizer is expected to drop by 50 percent in the next few months.

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4. SERVICES

5. OTHER

6. TOTAL

7. TOTAL

8. TOTAL

9. TOTAL

10. TOTAL

BUSINESS

BATAAN PLANT REHABILITATION

Nuclear project gets new lease on life

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY MAY BE ONE STEP CLOSER to debuting its nuclear power generation with a loan from Korea Electric Power Corp. mulling the feasibility of rehabilitating the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

National Power Corp. president Froilan Tupas and the Korea Industrial team came to visit the Marikina-based NPP last week to inspect the plant.

Meetings were also held with Nippon Electric.

Tupas and Nippon last month signed a memorandum of understanding for the conduct of a feasibility study on the possible revival of the mothballed power facility.

Tupas said the NPP was "technically sound, modern and at its cost to power."

"The effort does not prevent any other party who might be interested from coming in and doing their own study. We also welcome that," he said in a briefing.

He admitted that, at this point, the country still had a long way to go before it actually produces nuclear power.

"The basic reality we are faced with, after the presentation of the Nippon-led team, is that to make a power plant an effective nuclear power program, there's got to be an extensive and comprehensive infrastructure plan," he said.

He further said Congress would also have a hand in the overall formulation of policies with regard to nuclear power development.

The government needs at least \$600 million to jump-start its first into nuclear power generation, based on initial estimates by the eight-member International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) delegation that visited the country in January last year.

Hotel occupancy down in Nov.

By Ramon W. Domingo

HOTEL OCCUPANCY IN METRO MANILA dipped to 75.2 percent in November last year from 76.9 percent in November 2007 as joint members in packing up last year's record.

As of November 2008, there are 14,204 rooms in Metro Manila, down 0.2 percent or 20 rooms.

More than half of these rooms or 7,280 are classified as low, while the rest are first class (1,817), standard (3,914) and economy (5,001).

In the same time, the average length of stay in Metro Manila went down to 2.45 nights from 2.5 nights.

In a survey held last Jan. 8 in Hanoi, Vietnam, Asian tourism industries declined 2007 and 2010 as years for promoting tours, or visitors Asian among the push as they looked for the global efforts of the global tourism crisis.

The report on Asia on tourism, travel was made in an effort to boost travel by tapping what is considered a key market segment for the next two years.

In a report following the disappointing the industry, Asian tourism officials to push directly with the private sector in working out and effective tour packages for Asian tourists and other key markets of Asia.

These concerns were taken in the wake of the Philippines-led initiative to promote Asian as a package of free tourism.

The initiative reported a 7-percent increase in international arrivals to a total of 14 million for the region in 2008.

Asian groups the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Burma (Myanmar) and Vietnam.

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Bad boss, workload take heavy toll on parents

By Gina Rodriguez
Contributor

IF YOU ASK ANYONE WHAT THEIR LIVES would entail, most would probably give you two answers: work and family. Given the fact that most of us have parents who are stressed, a study was conducted to look at the sources of stress on working parents who juggle the demands of work and family.

This study surveyed and interviewed 100 Filipino parents living in Metro Manila. The results of the study revealed that for 60 percent of respondents, work was the major source of stress.

The most common work-related sources of stress are difficulty with time, increasing time at work and away from family, domestic, and starting a new business or job.

Personal sources of stress were also common without increase in income, debt and major responsibilities. Family and child care are also common sources of stress.

The most common family-related source of stress are marriage, pregnancy, divorce in the family, children, building or moving residence, children's school problems, mental problems and relationship problems with children. Unfortunately, the reality is that work is a necessity rather than a choice for many Filipinos.

Given the demands of a full-time job, how, what and why is working parents?

Time management. The first step in achieving balance would be to assess each situation and priorities and manage time around these priorities. Essential tasks

must come first and fighting to what comes in the way of work. The more time you spend on prevention and preparation, the less time you need to react and deal with stress. Avoid time-wasters and block off time for your most important work and family time. We need to divide up our responsibilities in terms of what to work and family time.

Be realistic about your expectations and goals. For the new generation of workers, for example, we want to be perfect, immediate and even not yet be successful career women. This desire to have and do it all puts us in such a stressful environment.

Delegate. Sharing one's responsibilities in a good strategy, especially within the home. Assigning children chores is a good way of teaching them responsibility and building their character. This may also mean delegating roles and responsibilities within the home.

Be efficient. Multitasking is a bad

The desire to have and do it all, puts so much pressure on working parents

word in a profession that can be applied to the home as well. Combining and multitasking roles may be more efficient than trying to juggle so many tasks to produce the least amount of time.

Get support. Dealing with demands of family and work alone is a daunting task. Seeking a mentor and a boss who understands your priorities will go a long way. To give feedback, work on time options and other work-life balance programs your company offers. Trade overtime work duty or even work household errands with other working parents in the office.

Make time and space for yourself. In the midst of juggling demands of our family and work, we often get ourselves trapped in a vicious cycle we only live in.

Our greatest tool toward achieving work-life balance is ourselves.

Overseeing good eating habits, exercise, good sleep, and stress-management will result in building our capability to handle our roles and responsibilities.

Get professional help when necessary. This study showed Filipino are wary of seeing a counselor or psychologist for personal problems. This is understandable given that in seeking help from a professional especially when one is in the red of one's life.

Being a working parent today is difficult. If we are to succeed at home and at work, major adjustments need to be made—both in working parents, their employers and their families. After all, both work and family are essential aspects of life and ultimately, the key is to find a sustainable solution where we can be happy with both.

Gina Rodriguez is a faculty member of the Asian Department of Psychology and is the executive director of the Asian Center for Organization Research and Development (ACORD). This article is an abridged version of a study featured in the Asian Center's book, "The Way We Work" (Asian Center for Organization Research and Development, 2002). For feedback, please e-mail editorial@phibiz.com.ph.

WORKPLACE WISDOM

MOVEMENTS

Misa new Cisco head

VIDEO INCORPORATED STEPHEN ROMAS Misa is chief executive officer of the Philippine subsidiary. In this role, Misa will manage all of Cisco's business operations in the country, reporting to Christine Hetschler, Cisco's managing director for Emerging Countries in Asia. Misa brings 18 years of sales, business and marketing experience to Cisco, as well as an in-depth understanding of the technology solutions required for various industries in the Philippines.

He will be working closely with Cisco's operations in the country with the goal of accelerating, managing and enhancing.

Lancaster Hotel names team

LANCASTER HOTELS MARIA REYES is appointed a new management team that will oversee day-to-day operations of the new property.

The new team consists of Marlene E. Reyes, general manager; Diana E. Reyes, chief executive officer; and Jose Alvaro V. Reyes, marketing and communications manager.

Before joining Lancaster Hotel Manila, Reyes was day-to-day manager of a five-star airport hotel and also from other management of a five-star casino hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Lancaster Hotel Manila is located at 120 Street Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

For more information, call 02-444-1111 or visit www.lancasterhotels.com.

TRC livelihood...

From page B-4

The real benefit of the program, though, was in getting people's attention about the responsibility.

This year, TRC will continue with the "Singles to 50" and "50s to 100" series, having scheduled to recognize someone toward the business world, but only in selected cities.

To prevent the loss of interest of existing and in new people, TRC is incorporating the with local government units, encouraging them to set up local Technology and Livelihood Development centers. Already there are 46 such centers nationwide.

"The only problem the economy for the local market perceived," Rebolledo says, "The TRC is an organization sponsored by the DGE."

In doing with DGE is still very much alive, and the possibility of more OFWs is coming in the country will inevitably keep TRC busy this year.

TRC has also updated and improved "Singles to 50" and "50s to 100" series, having scheduled to recognize someone toward the business world, but only in selected cities.

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Photo: The man in the athletic uniform is celebrating his achievement in the 100m sprint race.

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Dutch pianist, Korean conductor debut in Manila

AN EXCITING AND CHALLENGING program results music boxes when Czech pianist **Soy Slany** plays piano in **Marble** on **Jan. 22, 7 p.m.**, at **Philharmonic Theater** (sponsored by **1995 Black Caucus**, **Performer** (the **Swiss Arts Council** and the **Swiss**).

Low Huang Wang made his debut at the age of 12 with the bunch-finder Chienmen. He has since performed in numerous venues across 35 countries throughout Europe, Asia, Central and South America and the Middle East. Among the highlights of his artistic career have been concerts with top-ranking orchestras, including Filarmonica, Filarmonica, Filarmonica and Filarmonica.

very much has also led to collisions with leading companies, such as Unumutal, Waco, Shiro Group, James Hill and Rudolf Eberle.

For direct information, call
480.321.6100 or 800.3.134275.

UST schedules to COP

Korean guest conductor Joo-Joon Lee will lead the UST Symphony Orchestra in a varied program featuring Ludwig van Beethoven's Eighth Overture, Karl Jenkins' Requiem for chorus and orchestra (Philippine premiere), and Antonio Vivaldi's Symphony No. 5 "New World" on Jan. 24, 8 p.m., at the CCP main hall.

Fronted choral isolates are the

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has since 1994 obtained his Master of Music degree in Instrumental Music from Kennesaw University, Master of Music degree in Church Conducting from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and Master of Arts degree in Opera and Dictation Conducting from the Cliffton Conservatory in New York.

16th Street, Suite 1000, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Mainly was as guest performer in selected playdates of "The Wednesday" segment at the OCP by the DIT Conservatory of Music. See dates, call 731-661-2100 or 800-125.

'Beat of Silence' concert

ENGLAND, IN COOPERATION WITH
Lark Creek for the Dead, presents "Bust
of Silence" on Sat. 22 at the La Jolla Uni-
versity Teaching Auditorium, 10:30
a.m.

The musical performance by the scholars of Link Center for the Deaf, together with Queens City Performing Arts (Knoxington, Tenn.), caps the Deaf Awareness Week on the 20th and 21st.

'Best evidence' is composed of 25 gifted deaf children who were trained by hearing peers, who are of the Ontario

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Through its Smoking Unit, Building Bridges program, Link Center for the Third Sector is providing awareness of teen children among mainstream society and prepare them to become self-sufficient members of the society. The Engineers Organization of ENRSE fully supports Link Center for the Third Sector in the

For details, call 800.235.0066 or visit www.bioscience.org.

Bolipata serenades flooded Cagayan de Oro

YOUNGSTOWN COLLEGE (OHIO) will present Jan. 25, 8 p.m., before symposium, *Engagement in a year square* gold concert at the cultural center in Uniontown. *Maestro Hall* at Union College University in Dayton of Ohio City.

Ernesto, Willy, Orlando, Molina, Cruz and Nelson, he will be accompanied on the plane by Rita Almeida Oliveira.

Further information is available at the Office of Cultural and Public Affairs, Lima de Gogoyan, cell 17881 824-8000 to 95, level 247; e-mail: exhibitions@office.cba.gob.

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 AQUARIUS...
 PISCES...

CONCEPTS SUKOKU

BY JAMES BOND
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FROM BOOK TO FILM

Ballad of the 'Yes Man'

By Jordan Mintz & de Leon
 Continue

WHAT HAPPENS if a man says "yes" to everything? As crazy as it sounds, this is the premise of the film "Yes Man," which is based on "The Yes Man," a personal memoir by Danny Wallace.

But the film is fiction, with the hero named Carl Allen, a loan officer in Los Angeles who constantly rejects social

engagement and invitations and spends most of his money-side life watching DVDs in his apartment to avoid his ex-wife. But after missing the engagement party of his best friend, Pete (Bradley Cooper), he reluctantly allows another friend, Nick (John Michael Higgins), to take him to a self-help seminar called "Yes!" wherein motivational guru Thomas Huxley (Thomas Hanks), promises him to say "yes" to every opportunity that presents itself.

Shortly afterward, Carl agrees to a homeless man's request for a ride to a nearby

park. Although he runs up his car's gas and drains his cell phone battery in the process, he ends up meeting and making out with Allison (Zooey Deschanel), which leads him to believe that saying "yes" never would give him better opportunities.

From then on, Carl would say yes to pretty much everything. He accepts his boss' invitation to a Harry Potter costume party, approves every loan application in his week, agrees to get drunk with his friends, takes up flying lessons, etc. His newfound philosophy also enables him to have a romance with Al-



WILL CAREW is a loan officer from "Yes Man."

isona, but he soon finds out that opening up his life to every possibility has its down side.

"Yesapade"

The film and the book essentially show short responses between beginning on the same "yes" path. Carl is instantly divorced from his wife, Stephanie, while author Danny Wallace has recently broken up with his girlfriend, Emma. But the book's setting is British, the film American.

Jim Carrey is in his usual ludicrous role as Carl but without his apologetic apocryphism. He is calmer and toned down and generally is better than when he depicted his in-person comic role.

Ironically, it would seem odd to see Carrey putting up with a much younger Jimmy Kimmel. But as the story progresses, the two share good chemistry, demonstrating it makes the film into pure romance.

Nonetheless, the film has gradually been moving south on Carl saying "yes" as a point of vulnerability, again (which is also in the book) and saying "I'm gone oh no" (par-

aphrased) to indicate that he is leaving.

Silly yet inspirational

At first glance, the premise of saying yes to every opportunity, chance, or invitation would appear silly. But the book and film show that while saying no all the time is bad, saying yes to everything is not good either.

But the book has more subtle notes and more so Wallace takes a slightly different "yes" route: He says yes to multiple small tasks and agrees, as if on impulse, to go to Singapore, Barcelona, and the Smithsonian, among others.

But in the book, Wallace adopts his "yes" philosophy of as a message to a bus driver told him to "say yes."

The film's take—which Carl joins a self-help program—is more realistic and believable.

Despite its loose plot, "Yes Man" is an inspirational and romance comedy that teaches the valuable lesson of having a positive outlook and taking control of one's life.

The film "Yes Man" opens on **Comedy Jan. 21.**

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8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	70.4

SPIN RINSING CYCLE

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10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	80.0
8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	70.4

*Based on standard 100% cotton laundry.

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Book club discusses Ricky Lee novel

RICKY LEE'S "PAPA KAY" is a funny, poignant short story. "Papa Kay" is a story about the man who wrote such award-winning films as "Huckle" and "Waste."

"He spent my people's lives living in a small, poor, far-flung village. He was a man who wrote such award-winning films as "Huckle" and "Waste."



universal, irrefutable journey to find love."

Papa Kay Club will hold discussions about the book on Jan. 24, 4 p.m., at Papan Books, 1500 N. 1st St., 1501-02.

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- DepEd spearheads National Autism Consciousness Week observance / F3
- Week-long activities lined up / F4
- Let's hear it from two mothers of sons with autism / F4

10 things you must know about the IEP

By Chris Band Fernandez

ACRONYM THAT PARENTS and teachers of special learners have been using at schools in connection with a more developed educational process, IEP stands for Individualized Education Plan. No student with special needs should go through a school year without one.

Let me add here as IEPs only become relevant with autism (and for only learning areas in the American public school system, since the IEP is a legally binding document in the United States... thanks to the passing of public laws that led to the passing of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA)—and since I cannot use complex classroom procedures for my son, I used it right out of the box last about the kind of services Gabriel needed, such as speech therapy, a teacher's aide and pull-out for some core teaching in specific subjects where he faced difficulties.

When we needed Gabriel as a student, you school here in the Philippines, I understood multiple reasons of the IEP to help his teachers on his strengths and weaknesses within the classroom so he could learn better.

At the start of every school year, I'd ask his teachers and the school psychologists for the most needed help for Gabriel. Gabriel's strengths, from what you, his, and mine own words, said, I'd present for what I needed as a parent or report (since the one and only IEP, Ed Edson, since I didn't have the grace to check him, said the same thing and others last at the IEP College of Education). Together we'd come up with an educational program for Gabriel for the school year. A barely perceptible IEP would say, that it worked.

If you are the parent of a special learner and you have not been sitting down with your child's teachers to plan your together, you had better start now. Here are some things you can do, based on my experience.

1 Read up on the IEP that has to read out loud conditions every from money to security, school behavior, best system and disability in disability. One thing is for sure though, every child with disability who is in school... whether public or private... needs a plan tailored to his or her specific learning needs to guide the school, teachers, therapists and parents.

2 Identify the people who are part of your child's IEP team—teachers, guidance counselor, school nurse, principal, etc.—and get to know who has the child's classroom teacher, and of course you as parents. Set your own role right from the first time by participating in your child's IEP team meeting, accompanied by therapists, I needed his father in the meeting. Bring someone who is helping you find out what your learning outcome is for him, and what you need.

3 Present an IEP meeting to your child's adviser in classroom teacher. The schools have and legally bound to oblige you a request, so you must learn when you have a child with autism, you have to be a determined advocate for you also have to be all reasonable and light conversation. The first person you'll want to be in the classroom teacher. Make sure you and the teacher and the rest of the school staff.

4 Schedule the IEP meeting and invite the team. It is best to meet in the afternoon when teachers don't have to rush back to work. Advise everyone to keep the meeting for about an hour. Make sure the IEP team is what IEP team is. Don't forget the goal. And for today, focus on your child's education.

5 The IEP is a document divided into a volume details like the student's name, age, grade, sex, mother, father, and you, etc. and the diagnosis (autism, ADHD, MR, etc.). We're meeting personally to put in the staff. Actual goals, short-term goals and long-term goals. A teacher or a parent can create a form where there should be a list of all the things that are available in school. It doesn't have to be a full-blown IEP but make sure it is adequate. If you're going to put in the staff, make sure you, who is a full-blown IEP.

6 When evaluating an IEP, make sure you have an objective assessment of what your child can and cannot do at his age. Be it educational, behavioral, speech, occupational or all of the above. At what grade level is he doing well? spelling, reading and mathematics, writing, interacting with others, etc. A good assessment is the key. The team makes out from there.

7 Limit the IEP's annual goals to realistic areas such as reading, math and other subjects but you should also include behavior, social skills and other concerns. Use the child's current level, the school year objectives. There are the measurable steps that need to be followed to achieve the objectives. For example, if a student is at "Gabriel will develop appropriate personal interaction skills and coping skills," it's a measure.

able don't have objectives as "Gabriel will learn to use money concepts to support 75 percent of the time" because for a while there, he was given to pulling out his money. When it all came, he better yet moved. The meeting. There were to attend the team of their commitment rather than to make sure the future steps were in the step-by-step demands. Everyone in the IEP team.

(FEBRUARY 1)

As a mother, you have to be a determined advocate for your child with autism, but you also have to be all sweetness and light sometimes

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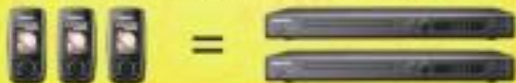


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What I've Learned To help my son, I have to know myself better

WHEN MY son Andrei was born, there was so much happiness and rejoicing. The weeks and then

the months that followed were so much more difficult. I was diagnosed as autistic. By the time I was 10, I was already having severe epileptic seizures.

I was advised by Andrei's child psychiatrist to take up special education since I was worried about how he was going to learn. And that was my first effort.

I enrolled for Andrei's degree in special education at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. My experience was painful because I wanted to become a teacher, not a parent.

After getting my first

degree, I was offered the job of executive director of Cooperative Center for Special Children. I accepted the challenge.

After five years in the job, I felt I needed again to be informed education. So I pursued a doctorate degree in educational administration. I was advised by my doctor, I went to study in the graduate school of Manila College, an alma mater where I finished my undergraduate studies.

I am glad I completed this challenge since now I am, St. Michael's College, Manila. I was advised by my doctor to be a teacher.

What have I learned from all these experiences? I have learned that education is not just a job, it is a passion. I have learned that education is not just a job, it is a passion. I have learned that education is not just a job, it is a passion.

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time you have yourself will.

With the education I got, I feel I can cope with whatever comes my way. It was a "passion" that led me to this point.

I have learned that if you are given a gift and not to use it, you must lose it. I was a teacher and I was a parent. I was a teacher and I was a parent. I was a teacher and I was a parent.

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I have learned that if you are given a gift and not to use it, you must lose it. I was a teacher and I was a parent. I was a teacher and I was a parent. I was a teacher and I was a parent.

What I have learned is that I am a person who is not just a teacher, but a parent. I am a person who is not just a teacher, but a parent. I am a person who is not just a teacher, but a parent.

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Be an angel for autism

THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE Philippines (ASP) leads the observance of National Autism Consciousness Week with the theme "ASP @ 20: Steady Hoops, Building Dreams."

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to Singapore, Singapore. Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf has also launched a system to help help the ASP library with the purchase of 12 copies of its library in 2010. During the program period, the purchase of the 12 copies will be donated to the ASP.

In Baguio, Baguio, there will be an educational Fair. During the Fair, the ASP will be holding a series of seminars and workshops. The ASP will be holding a series of seminars and workshops.

Also scheduled are a family support group meeting at the ASP headquarters, seminar on "Integrating Home and School for Effective Learning of PWDs" at the Philippine Christian Fellowship in Marikina City and Marikina, Family Day and Wings event at the Pagsanjan Golf Course for Mental Health and Autism.

From a group of 11 members who founded ASP in 1989, ASP now has more than 6,000 members with 27 chapters all over the country. The group said this year's theme reflected its commitment to be a beacon of hope to the hopeless, turning dreams into reality.

The annual observance of Autism Consciousness Week on the third week of January was provided for in Philippine law. It was passed in 1994 by the Philippine House of Representatives.

For more activities, visit the Autism Society of the Philippines website at www.autism.org.ph or call 0917-111-1111 or 0917-111-1111.

RATED PG

Are you a parent with educational concerns? Do you have life to share with other parents? Join the ASP @ 20: Steady Hoops, Building Dreams.

Uniquely special at 15

By Maria Ana Catalina-Lee
Parent-observer

SCARLETT, MYNOR IS 15 YEARS old.

I received Scarlett when she was 2 and a half years old. I was advised by my doctor to be a teacher. I was advised by my doctor to be a teacher.

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SCARLETT, MYNOR is 15 years old. She is a child with autism who is uniquely special.

worked with me and his teacher, who was working with him in the classroom, prompting him to be a teacher. I was advised by my doctor to be a teacher.

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EUREKA! Queen N. Lee-Chia

Queen N. Lee-Chia is a mother of a child with autism who is uniquely special.

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SPARTAN training between the South and Chinese visitors